

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL GLASER**, on April 12, 2001 at 1:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Glaser, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jack Wells, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. John C. Bohlinger (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Alvin Ellis Jr. (R)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Dale Berry (R)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Linda Ashworth, Committee Secretary
Eddy McClure, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HJR 40, 4/11/2001; HJR 41,
4/11/2001; HJR 35, 4/11/2001
Executive Action: HJR 35, HJR 40, HJR 41

HEARING ON HJR 40

Sponsor: REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 5, Lame Deer

Proponents: REP. CAROL JUNEAU, HD 85, Browning

Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association
Erik Burke, Montana Education Association/Montana
Federation of Teachers

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 5, informed the committee that HJR 40 would be an interim study that would examine the use of the pre-professional skills test (PPST) as an entry test for admission into the teacher education programs in Montana. **REP. BIXBY** punctuated her testimony with additional information, **EXHIBIT (eds83a01)** and **EXHIBIT (eds83a02)**.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 5}

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. CAROL JUNEAU, HD 85, rose in support of HJR 40. She referred to page four of **EXHIBIT (1)**, maintaining the test would not be sufficient to determine whether teachers would be effective in the classroom. She suggested the information should be taken into account when determining whether the pre-professional skills test should remain in use in the colleges and universities in Montana.

Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association, avowed support for HJR 40. He felt the Board of Education should have an opportunity to study the barriers that would exist with the use of the PPST.

Erik Burke, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers, echoed support of HJR 40, inferring the study would look for adverse impacts upon populations.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. ED BUTCHER wondered if the sponsor was questioning the validity of the test. **REP. BIXBY** contended the PPST was biased toward minorities and low income people.

SEN. BUTCHER hypothesized testing could keep the best and creative teachers out of the profession. He questioned if it

would make more sense to scrutinize the area of practice teaching instead of academic testing. **REP. BIXBY** expressed her hope that the study would address both issues.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5 - 7}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. BIXBY closed on HJR 40. She cited her belief that using standardized tests to license teachers could be technically sound, maintaining that testing could not predict future classroom success.

SEN. BUTCHER offered to carry the bill.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7 - 9}

HEARING ON HJR 41

Sponsor: **REP. JOAN ANDERSEN, HD 23, Fromberg**

Proponents: **REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 5, Lame Deer**
REP. CHRIS HARRIS, HD 30, Bozeman
Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association
Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana
Erik Burke, MEA/MFT

Opponents: **None**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JOAN ANDERSEN, HD 23, contended it was important to develop and interim committee to study the laws concerning school boundary transfers and to make recommendations to the 58th Legislature.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 9 - 10}

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 5, avowed support for HJR 41. She reminded the committee that the Supreme Court decision relating to school boundary transfers dealt with a case originating in her district. She maintained the resolution would address the constitutionality of district land transfers.

REP. CHRIS HARRIS, HD 30, urged strong support for HJR 41.

Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association, echoed support of HJ 41, maintaining it would be the best way to address a contentious issue.

Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana, proclaimed support for HJR 41.

Erik Burke, MEA/MFT, expressed support for HJR 41.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10 - 14}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER wondered why the House Judiciary Committee failed to support SB 111. **REP. HARRIS** responded that the House Committee had conducted a lengthy hearing on SB 111. He stated his support hinged on compliance with the Supreme Court decision. He guessed the bill didn't satisfy many of the underlying emotional concerns.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14 - 15}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. ANDERSEN closed on HJR 41.

SEN. ELLIS agreed to carry the bill.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 15 - 16}

HEARING ON HJR 35

Sponsor: **REP. CHRIS HARRIS, HD 30, Bozeman**

Proponents: **Dr. Richard Crofts, Board of Public Education**

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HARRIS, HD 30, opened on HJR 35. He maintained that an interim committee needed to study the feasibility of establishing a pre-payment tuition program within the Montana University

System. He felt the program would have to be a establish a balance between parents and the university system.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16 - 32}

Proponents' Testimony:

Dr. Richard Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education, avowed support for HJR 35.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. HARRIS closed on HJR 35.

SEN. BOHLINGER agreed to carry the bill.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 1}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 35

Motion/Vote: **SEN. BOHLINGER** moved that **HJR 35 BE CONCURRED IN.**
Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 40

Motion/Vote: **SEN. BUTCHER** moved that **HJR 40 BE CONCURRED IN.**
Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 41

Motion/Vote: **SEN. BOHLINGER** moved that **HJR 41 BE CONCURRED IN.**
Motion carried unanimously.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1 - 8}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:39 P.M.

SEN. BILL GLASER, Chairman

LINDA ASHWORTH, Secretary

BG/LA

EXHIBIT (eds83aad)